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ELEPHANTS ON PARADE

MARINE Studios in Margate is calling on graphic designers to submit their Mechanical Elephants for a new exhibition in February.

Opening on Friday, February 4, Adventures in Comics is the latest in the gallery's First Friday monthly shows. Previous events have included live insects and a giant knitting nancy on the beach.

Artists have until Friday, January 21, to submit a two-page comic on the theme Mechanical Elephant and successful entries will have their piece displayed.

More details of this and future exhibitions are available at www.marinestudios.co.uk.

■ BY FLORENCE TENNENT

THANET council had unpaid council tax bills of more than £2.7 million in the last financial year.

The outstanding balance in April 2010 stood at £2,759,906, which meant it failed to receive £4 for every £100 owed.

Across Kent, councils were more than £21 million in arrears.

Thanet council has recovered just over £1 million of the unpaid tax which leaves £1,707,295 still unpaid from almost a year ago.

Clive Hart, Thanet Labour group leader, said: "£1.7m is a great deal of money, and the Conservative administration at Thanet council should do all it possibly can to collect council tax in what are financially challenging times due to severe cuts in funding."

Severe deprivation in some areas of Thanet means council collectors expect difficulties, and a "realistic collection rate" allows some outstanding debt to be taken into consideration when planning the annual budget.

Simon Moores, cabinet member for customer services, said: "The council works exceptionally hard to recover all outstanding council tax debts and, to date, we are collecting significantly more than in prior years."

"We understand that customers may have difficulty paying their council tax. We make every effort to assist them by agreeing arrangements for payment."

The Citizens' Advice Bureau and the consumer credit counselling service offer free advice.

A council spokeswoman said: "Any customers having difficulties paying council tax should contact us."

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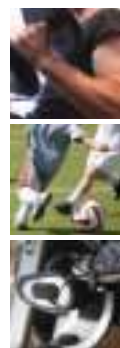
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SUPPORT: Funding from Rochester Bridge Grants is helping organisations such as the the Kenward Trust Lighthouse Project in Margate to rebuild the gardens at its two townhouses

Bridge grants to help homeless youngsters get back on their feet

■ BY FLORENCE TENNENT

APPLICATIONS are now available for Rochester Bridge Trust grants which last year helped a Margate charity rebuilding young homeless lives.

The trust, founded in the late 14th century, provides funds of up to £4,000 for community groups and organisations across Kent.

Last year's beneficiaries included the Kenward Trust Lighthouse Project in Margate, which received £3,000 to convert the two dilapidated backyards of its Victorian townhouses into a working garden, at the request of the young adults it supports.

The Christian charity helps children and young people with nowhere else to go, often struggling with drug addiction. The Lighthouse project in Margate offers 23 beds to troubled youngsters aged between 16 and 25, providing support workers, education and advice for up to two years.

A recent participant said: "They helped me to find me and I will fulfill my potential and be living proof of the work and transformation that goes on at Kenward."

"Thank you for showing me that I am worth saving and showing me how to live life without drugs and drink. Thank you for my life back."

The grant helped the charity reach its £10,000 target and work on the garden is well under way, with the outer fencing complete.

Over the last 20 years the Rochester Bridge trust has provided nearly £5 million in grants to churches, schools, hospitals, universities, scout associations and other groups involved in historic building conservation, education and research into Kentish history and engineering studies, as well as other specific projects.

More details of can be found on the group's website www.rbt.org.uk, along with application forms.

Sue Threader, bridge clerk for the trust, said: "Careful investment and management of endowments made to the trust over the centuries enables us not only to build and maintain our Medway crossings, but also to support community organisations and groups."

"As a result, the trust has been able to support valuable educational and community-focused projects for local people."

The closing date for applications is Thursday, March 31.

Concealed cocaine stuffed inside yams

COCAINE-stuffed yams found at Manston airport made a list of the UK Border Agency's top ten unusual drug hiding places in 2010.

An estimated ten kilos of cocaine, worth about half a million pounds, was found hidden inside hollow yams on board a freight flight from Ghana at the Kent airport in August.

The vegetables had been cut open, filled with the class A drug and superglued back together.

Investigations are ongoing.

Brodie Clark, Border Force head, said: "These smuggling attempts show the lengths that organised criminals will go to in a bid to get drugs into the UK."

"Criminals invest large sums of money to come up with better concealment methods because they know the potential profits from the awful trade in harmful drugs are considerable."

Warning after spate of bogus council tax calls

SCAMMERS are targeting council taxpayers in two new telephone cons. Suspicious Thanet residents called the council after callers told them they were either due a large refund of their council tax or they had won the chance to have it paid for them.

They were asked for their bank details and given a mobile phone number to contact with any problems.

Thanet council confirmed neither call came from them.

Simon Moores, customer services cabinet member, said: "These scams, have been circulating for some time in other areas. The council would never make calls like this and if you receive a call of this nature, please do not give out any personal information."

Anyone who receives a suspicious call is asked to contact the police on 01622 690690.

Thieves ransack store

BOTTLES of vodka, rum and chocolate bars were stolen in a break-in at Westgate's Londis store.

Thieves forced the door to the shop in Cambourne Avenue just after 5am on Monday, December 20.

Police are asking anyone saw the incident to contact Detective Constable Clare Taylor on 01843 111062.

West End beckons for teen hopes

TALENTED teenagers are being sought for leading roles in two hit musicals, with the chance to perform in London's West End.

Thanet based Stagedoor Theatre Company are inviting anyone aged between 10 and 19 to audition for their next two shows, Aladdin and Billy Elliot - The Musical.

In April the Granville theatre in Ramsgate will be transported to Agrabah, the city of enchantment, and play host to Disney's Aladdin. The theatre company are looking for performers for the lead roles, chorus, dancers and singers.

Following last year's hugely successful production of Billy Elliot - The Musical, the company are teaming up with the West End's Billy Youth Theatre for a second year to stage a bigger and bolder performance, this time seeking between 60 and 100 cast members from Canterbury, Dover, Deal, Folkestone



STAGE STAR: Brad Wilson performing in the lead role in Billy Elliot the Musical in London

and Thanet to perform in a major theatre in July, probably the Margate Winter Gardens.

The group, competing against performers from across the UK, will then submit a recording of the show to the resident creative team for the West End production and, if selected,

the show will perform in a larger regional theatre that same month.

The best productions will also be showcased at the Victoria Palace Theatre in London as part of the Billy Youth Theatre West End Gala.

Last year the Thanet production opened in the Granville theatre and performed in the regional finals at the Swan Theatre in High Wycombe.

Auditions for both shows will be held in Dover, Thanet and Canterbury during the week commencing Monday, January 16 and anyone interested in attending can email stagedoor_enquiries@hotmail.co.uk for an application pack.

The Stagedoor Theatre Company runs weekly classes in drama, dancing and singing in Margate and Broadstairs throughout the year since 2007, with more details to be published on their soon-to-be-completed website www.stagedoor-theatrecompany.com.

Crazy drivers social networking at wheel

■ BY FLORENCE TENNENT

THE “sheer madness” of motorists on mobile phones is the target of a new Thanet road safety campaign, as research shows drivers are even updating social network sites on the go.

The Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership are putting up brightly coloured warning signs in January to remind drivers that safety camera vans catch mobile phone violations and people driving without seatbelts as well as speedsters breaking the limit.

A recent survey of 1,000 Kent residents showed 35 per cent were unaware that the speed camera vans could catch other traffic infringements.

Consequences

Katherine Barrett, of the KMSC partnership, said: “The penalty for not wearing a seat belt is a £60 fine and for being caught using a mobile phone while driving is a £60 fine and three penalty points on your licence, but the consequences of a crash can be much more devastating.

“In the last three years there have been at least 46 crashes on the county’s roads involving someone using a mobile phone while at the wheel. Of these there were four fatalities, ten serious injuries and 48 slight injuries.”

Research carried out by the RAC 2010 report revealed that 21 per cent of motorists questioned had accessed emails, facebook and twitter while driving and 31 per cent had sent a text, while



MADNESS: Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership vans are out to catch drivers using mobile phones (inset)

roadside surveys revealed one in ten Kent motorists driving without a seatbelt.

One driver tweeted: “I can’t believe how bad my spelling was in my last tweet. A testament (sic) to not tweeting whilst driving!”

Ms Barrett said: “It’s worrying that people still don’t take seriously the dangers posed by using, in any way, a phone while driving.

“Clearly, drivers do not think they will get caught, but that kind of attitude can lead to trag-

ic and even fatal consequences. Using a mobile phone to make calls or text while driving is sheer madness.”

Thanet has eight fixed safety cameras and two safety camera van sites at crash hotspots around the isle.

Motorists can be charged for using a mobile even when a vehicle is stationary in a lay-by, traffic jam, traffic lights or at the side of the road, with the engine running.

Stretch of A28 to close for repairs

DAMAGED chevrons and road deterioration are forcing a large section of the Canterbury bound A28 to close.

Urgent repairs will be carried out tomorrow on the A28 Canterbury Road in Birchington, between Brooksend Hill and St Nicholas roundabout, from 9am to 3.30pm.

Kent Highway services will patch up the damaged carriageway before it becomes hazardous and several damaged and missing chevron signs will be replaced, weather permitting.

One lane will remain open heading into Birchington, but Canterbury-bound traffic will be diverted along Seamark Road and onto the A299 Thanet Way via the Monkton roundabout.

Ferry blown aground

HIGH winds forced a TransEuropa ferry to run aground in Ramsgate Harbour.

The 14,458 ton liner, bringing passengers from Ostende in Belgium, became stuck on a mud bank while entering the port on Saturday morning, January 8.

An emergency tugboat was dispatched to dislodge the ship and guide it into its berth.

Extensive dredging has been carried out in the harbour over the past year, but more work is scheduled to begin next month.

Bowl up for bingo

BIRCHINGTON Bowls Club is launching a weekly bingo club at their pavilion on Beach Road.

The bowlers, who fought off competition from across Kent in September to win the coveted Bernard Annand trophy, are welcoming anyone along to the club once a week at 2.30pm, starting on Friday.

Port rabies law to be scrapped to allow dogs in

A BY-LAW that was brought in to ban dogs from Ramsgate Harbour because of the threat of rabies is being scrapped.

Thanet council said precautions against the killer disease coming to the UK were behind the introduction of the by-law in 1994.

But since the introduction of pet passports, the public health threat of rabies has been reduced.

Rabies is a potentially fatal virus commonly transmitted by dogs and travellers to some developing world countries are inoculated against it.

The council said the by-law had not been popular with harbour users, particularly because many yacht owners liked to take their dogs on sailing trips.

Some lorry drivers had also protested saying they like to have dogs for company on long trips.

Council leader Bob Bayford said: “It is clear that this by-law is past its sell-by date.

“It was introduced for a good reason, but that was nearly 20 years ago and things have changed a great deal since then.”

There were just 318 recorded cases of rabies in EU member states in 2007 – the last time a survey was undertaken – down from 2,679 in 1990.

Rescheduled New Year parade lights up streets

MARGATE town partners celebrated the New Year with a festive parade and fireworks display.

Roma students from Hartsdown Technology College warmed up the high street with a display of traditional gypsy dancing at 3.45pm on Friday, January 7, before samba band Bloco Fogo led the procession from Mill Lane down the High Street and out into the Old Town market place.

Behind them the mayor and mayoress of Margate led a party of charter trustees and a column of Hartsdown staff and students carrying flags and decorations, a Chinese-style lion-headed dragon and an enormous Christmas sleigh.

Craft stalls and a roundabout greeted the procession, which was treated to flag dancers, student gospel singers and a street magician before bands the InterSeptors and the Suspects ushered in a round of fireworks off the Harbour Arm.

Curious shopkeepers and onlookers gathered to watch the parade, with many unaware that an event had been planned.

The parade was originally advertised as a Christmas celebration on Friday, December 3, but the heavy snow and severe weather conditions



CELEBRATION: Students paraded through Margate last week

forced the organisers, Margate Charter Trustees and the Town Partnership, to reschedule and rebrand the day.

The event was the first of a range of Margate Celebrates events planned to compliment a year of regeneration, including centenary festivities at the Winter Gardens, the Planet Thanet East beer festival in April and the Margate Raft Races in June.

Andy Somers, college principal, said: “Our students and staff worked extremely hard to put together a brilliant lively parade that was a fantastic way to get 2011 under way. The students played a major role in the event and I am proud of them.”

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High Street
Margate
01843 223578

Thanet Matchroom
8 Fort Hill
Margate
01843 296808

Wig & Pen
10 Market Place
Margate
01843 231180

Broadstairs

Bradstow Mill
125 High Street
Broadstairs
01843 861108

Captain Digby
Kingsgate
Broadstairs
01843 867764

Cramptons
139 High Street
Broadstairs
01843 860428

Lanthorne
20 Callis Court Rd
Broadstairs
01843 861952

Tartare Frigate
Harbour Street
Broadstairs
01843 862013

Cramptons
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Broadstairs
01843 860428

Fayreness Hotel
Marine Drive
Kingsgate
Broadstairs
01843 868641

Pavillion
Harbour Street
Broadstairs
01843 600999

Ramsgate

Port & Anchor
2-4 Albion Rd
Ramsgate
01843 850493

Queens Head
78 Harbour Parade
Ramsgate
01843 853888

Red Lion
1 King Street
Ramsgate
01843 586713

The Royal
Harbour Parade
Ramsgate
01843 599599

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Pegwell Rd
Ramsgate
01843 599590

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11 Margate Rd,
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01843 593880

St Lawrence Tavern
The High St
St Lawrence
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01843 592337

Oak Hotel
66 Harbour Parade
Ramsgate
01843 583686

The De Ville
45 Grange Rd
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WASHED UP:
Dead crabs cover the beach at Nayland Rock. They are thought to have fallen victim to hypothermia after sea temperatures plummeted

Dead crabs 'may be victims of coldest winter'

THOUSANDS of dead crabs have washed up along the Thanet coast, with environmental experts believing the cold weather is to blame for their deaths.

The velvet swimming crabs – also known as devil crabs – are thought to be victims of the UK's coldest December in 120 years, which saw sea temperatures plunge much lower than the seasonal average.

More than 40,000 crabs have been reported on the isle's beaches, along with smaller numbers of whelks, sponges and anemones.

Worst-hit were beaches at Westbrook, Cliftonville and Kingsgate, while smaller numbers have been washed up between Broadstairs and Ramsgate.

Coastal warden Tony Sykes said: "We suspect that climate change and warmer weather has lured the crabs towards the shoreline. They could also be attracted to these waters looking for kelp to feed on."

"We believe the sudden temperature drop causes the crabs to suffer from hypothermia and die."

Investigations by the Environment Agency revealed no evidence of virus or disease.

Thanet Coast Project manager Tony Child

■ BY NICK AMES

said he was surprised at the large number of crabs that had died.

"We had a crash in numbers last year, and we hadn't expected such a large population," he said.

"We are hopeful the crab population will soon recover."

Martin Wise, Thanet council's member for environmental services, said: "The severe cold weather can disrupt marine life, as well as our own lives."

"Usually the temperature of the marine environment is much more stable than our air temperatures. However, it looks increasingly like Thanet coastal wildlife, such as these crabs and starfish, just can't cope with the severe cold. The casualties run into thousands of mainly velvet swimming crabs."

"Our volunteer coastal wardens have been reporting casualties from the Christmas holidays, and after the last couple of years these were not entirely unexpected."

"The deaths appear to be a natural part of the struggle for life on the seashore, and we expect most of the crabs to be naturally dispersed from our shores quickly by our local seagulls."

Rare Dickens volumes go on display

FOR the first time, the public can handle and read rare books by and about Charles Dickens from the priceless Fitzgerald Collection.

The writer spent many summer holidays in Broadstairs and wrote much of David Copperfield in Bleak House.

The collection, compiled more than 100 years ago, is now housed in the Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre in Strood and is open to the public following an official launch.

Apart from all Dickens's major novels, the archive has many of the writer's minor works, first editions, foreign publications, photographs of Dickens, Victorian scrap-

books, cards, and other memorabilia.

A good number of books in the collection feature beautiful illustrations, which capture the period of Victorian Britain.

There are also posters and bills advertising performances and readings connected with the author of such classics as Great Expectations and A Tale of Two Cities.

Percy Fitzgerald was a personal friend of Dickens and donated his library to Eastgate House Museum, Rochester, in 1912, where it was displayed before going into storage.

To view some of the archive and to take a tour of Dickens' Rochester go to www.yourkenttv.co.uk.

yourthanet.co.uk

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lifeboat memorial listed

THE memorial of a 19th century lifeboating disaster which 'touched the nation' has had its listed status increased to Grade II.

First unveiled in 1900, the Surf Boat Memorial in Margate St John cemetery is dedicated to nine men who died in 1897, when their rescue boat A Friend to All Nations capsized on a distress call.

Queen Victoria added £35 to almost £10,000 in donations from all around the world, which also funded a second statue of a lifeboat man looking out to sea by Nayland Rock, also Grade II listed.

A spokesman for English Heritage said: "The loss of lifeboatmen at sea was a tragedy experienced by many coastal towns, and memorials to such events are poignant reminders of England's historic maritime economy."

"The Margate disaster attracted funds from over the world and touched the nation."

Scrap dealer fined £750

DODGY deliveries have cost a Ramsgate scrap metal merchant almost £900.

Daniel Rolfe, 37, from Staplehurst Gardens in Margate, was ordered by Canterbury magistrates to pay £750 in fines and £145 in costs on Tuesday, January 4, after receiving unrecorded deliveries at his Kent Metals dealership on Whitehall industrial estate.

Police and council officers raided the scrap metal premises on May 28, after seeing a lorry unload heavy duty wire wool and lead.

Inspection of the record books showed no mention of the delivery, which merchants have to log by law. Rolfe failed to appear in court and was found guilty in his absence of three charges of poor record-keeping.

Robbery witness appeal

POLICE have released a late appeal for witnesses after a robbery at a Ramsgate bar.

Two or three men entered the Enoteca Bar on Harbour Parade through an insecure door early on Saturday, December 4, after the bar had closed for the night.

The robbers pushed and punched the barman, a 22-year-old from Broadstairs, and took between 20 and 30 bottles of spirits.

Anyone with information is asked to call Det Con Dave Whitehead on 01843 222145.

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Saturday 22nd January

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Saturday 22nd January

Cross Fire

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Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 28th January

Eyelash Guilt

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Saturday 29th January

Eyelash

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
Broadstairs 01843 861108

Friday 4th February

Fat B-stards

The Red Lion, 1 King Street,
Ramsgate 01843 586713

Friday 11th February

Jeepster

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Saturday 12th February

Barking Mad

Bradstow Mill, 125 High Street,
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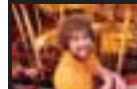
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Birth centre closed

THE recently completed birthing centre at Margate's QEQM Hospital will remain closed until a review of maternity services is completed.

The midwifery-led unit offers a less clinical environment for mums-to-be but won't open until at least May while East Kent Hospitals Trust, Eastern and Coastal Primary Care Trust and GPs carry out an evaluation and public consultation on services which have been severely stretched due to staff shortages and a rising birth rate, leading to the Canterbury and Dover centres closing temporarily.

Neil Martin, East Kent Hospitals Trust medical director, said: "This is not an easy decision, but we have taken into account staff shortages and our priority is that the highest possible standards of safety continue to be applied. We are not prepared to take any risks."

Mall the merrier

SEASONAL shoppers flooded Westwood Cross in record numbers in the run-up to the new year.

The mall saw more bargain-hunters between Boxing Day and New Year's Eve than ever before. The 5am launch of the Next sale helped make Monday, December 27, the busiest day of the year.

The centre is waiting to see how January's rise in VAT will affect trade.

Tom Price, general manager, said: "It's difficult to gauge the impact of the VAT increase as it coincided with the return to school and work, when footfall always shows a sharp decline."

"Store sales in this week last year were affected by snow, which will also make comparisons more difficult. We will know more over the next few weeks."

Casting the net wide in search for stage talent

■ BY FLORENCE TENNENT

TALENTED teenagers are being sought for leading roles in two hit musicals – with the chance to perform in the West End of London.

Thanet-based Stagedoor Theatre Company is inviting anyone aged between ten and 19 to audition for its next two shows: Aladdin, and Billy Elliot – The Musical.

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The theatre company is looking for performers for the lead roles, chorus, dancers and singers.

Following last year's hugely successful production of Billy Elliot – The Musical, the company is teaming up with the West End's Billy Youth Theatre for a second year to stage a bigger and bolder performance, this time seeking between 60 and 100 cast members from Canterbury, Dover, Deal, Folkestone and Thanet to perform in a leading Kent theatre in July,



HEAD OVER HEELS: West End opportunity beckons



AUDITIONS: Cast members are being sought for productions of Billy Elliot – The Musical, above, and Aladdin

probably Margate Winter Gardens. The group, competing against performers from across the UK, will then submit a recording of the show to the resident creative team for the West End production and, if selected, the show will perform in a larger regional theatre that same month.

The best productions will also be showcased at the Victoria Palace Theatre in London as part of the Billy Youth Theatre West End gala.

Last year the Thanet production opened in the Granville and performed in the regional

finals at the Swan Theatre, High Wycombe. Auditions for both shows will be held in Dover, Thanet and Canterbury during the week commencing on Monday.

Anyone interested in attending can email stagedoor_enquiries@hotmail.co.uk for an application pack. Stagedoor Theatre Company has run weekly classes in drama, dancing and singing in Margate and Broadstairs since 2007.

More details will be published soon on the website www.stagedoor-theatrecompany.com.

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QUESTION & ANSWER

CAROLINE HALLETT



A I have a variety of hobbies, including arts and crafts, cooking and walking. I love entertaining and relaxing with friends.

The Kent co-ordinator of the Food For Life Partnership speaks to **James Alexandre** about transforming school meals, reducing carbon miles and what organic produce means for the future of our food supplies





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EMAIL: Email us your letters at yourthanet@kosmedia.co.uk.

YOUR LETTERS

You're not the leader any more, Ezekiel

I was one of many who attended the Thanet council meeting about the future of the Montefiore tennis courts (last week's Yourthanet).

I'm also proud to have been one of the original members of the committee that was formed to fight for this valuable commodity.

There are too many sports facilities being built on in Thanet. Large green areas that were once playgrounds have been sold and are now housing estates, with many properties still empty.

Conservative Sandy Ezekiel took over a large part of the meeting, almost spitting in the faces of residents who had fought for the tennis courts to be saved.

The attitude of Cllr Ezekiel was a disgrace and he should have been stopped by the chair. Cllr Ezekiel says he was appalled with the Labour Party. At least Labour fought for the people and cared what happened to the courts. They were working for the people. Isn't this what all councillors are supposed to do?

Cllr Ezekiel shouted at me in the meeting and accused me of not wanting housing for all those on the housing list, and that all I wanted was the tennis courts.

There was never any intention whatsoever of Thanet council building homes for the homeless in this area – they would have been for well-off people.

We have so many new houses in Thanet that have stood empty for a very long time – people do not have the money to buy them – but we do need recreational facilities.

Montefiore's are the most used courts in Thanet. Between April and October last year, we took £3,500 in fees at £1 each a game – that is a lot of people playing tennis in a short time.

Cllr Ezekiel said we were a disgrace. Well, I'm sorry, but I know of no other person in his position who has disgraced himself by his behaviour in a public place, leading to a severe reprimand for bringing his office into disrepute.

How can he make accusations against others in a public place when he is such a bad example?

I thought Robert Bayford was Thanet council's leader now. Cllr Ezekiel certainly forgot this at the meeting and no one reminded him of his correct place.

All that I and almost 1,600 people can say is, if it wasn't for our ward councillors the tennis courts would have been sold years ago – for that we shall be forever grateful. Thank you, Alan Poole and Michelle Fenner.

Carole Russell
Ramsgate

Blast from the past

Oh dear, he's back – the man who dragged Thanet's name through the mud as his leadership of the council took us from one unsavoury

your blogger

Remember when it was all fields around here? Editor Dave Mairs looks back in anger... and some hope



I CAN still remember the combine-harvester working the golden fields as I cycled home from the family beach hut at Foreness Bay.

This was an idyllic place: the beach, the cliffs, the farmland rolling up to Northdown Park. Sentimental and dewy-eyed? I don't care. The stretch of Thanet between Margate and Broadstairs was a lovely place.

And then the houses came, lots of them. The Northdown Park estate, the one where the garages were put on front gardens so more homes could be crammed in and the builders could rake in more profit.

The process continued remorselessly as Cliftonville was joined to Kingsgate, and the much-trumpeted 'green wedge' became just that – a tiny sliver of land comprising a golf course and a couple of farms. The same thing happened at Dumpton to blur the distinction between Broadstairs and Ramsgate. It has been happening across the isle for as long as any of us can remember, to the point where we now have 15 miles of near-unbroken housing stretching from Minnis Bay to Pegwell Bay.

It would be difficult to correlate precisely this orgy of building with the heartbreaking decline of Margate as a town, but the two sagas ran, give or take a few years, pretty much in tandem. And this is important. It is gives the lie to the admittedly strange idea that simply building houses, and then building some more, enhances the economic prospects of a town, district or county.

It doesn't. What it does is make rich those who flog the land and the builders who buy and develop it. It provides short-term work for some in and around the building industry. And that pretty much is it.

As for the rest of us, we are left with a wholly impoverished environment and find ourselves living somewhere that really isn't special any more.

And in Thanet – alongside the near-total absence of open space – we have the added hit of the (now massive) urban area having some of the most undesirable socio-economic indicators in the country. Unemployment,

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering, contact the editor, **Dave Mairs**, on 01303 817022, or email him on the details above.

If you want to be the next Thanet blogger, then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of about 550 words) and email it to the editor.

And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town, log on to www.yourthanet.co.uk.

incident to another.

A correspondent last week referred to some of the excesses of Tory councillor Sandy Ezekiel and his colleagues, so I won't repeat them here (I haven't got time).

However, I am disturbed by Cllr Ezekiel's re-emergence into the spotlight – how can his successor Bob Bayford be allowing this?

Cllr Bayford has hardly impressed since taking office, but surely anything would be better than the dark days of Ezekiel, Latchford and Co.

Or does Cllr Bayford want his party to lose control of the council again?

Paul Butler
Margate

Tories are leading the gay revolution

It was encouraging to read the forward-looking letter from councillor Simon Moores – what a contrast to the out-of-touch letter from fellow Tory councillor Roger Latchford, who seemed to be more interested in showing off his knowledge of Shakespeare than addressing the issues that affect ordinary Conservative voters.

However, I was delighted to read

the letter from Rupert Thurgot, who pointed out that the modern Tory Party seems to be leading the way regarding equality for gay people.

In fact, today's Parliamentary Tory Party is more representative in this category than any other party.

In his letter, Mr Thurgot said he was sure that Thanet's Tories were just as progressive as those in the rest of the country. I would like to think that this is true.

And now that US President Barack Obama has signed a landmark law allowing gay people to serve openly in the military, despite prejudiced voices from the odd angry colonel here and there, the world, not just Planet Thanet, is becoming a much fairer place for everyone to live in.

Pat Bennett
Ramsgate

• With regard to the letter from Roger Latchford complaining about Iris Johnston – one of the most hard-working councillors you could ever be proud to know – for him to start quoting Shakespeare was pathetic, to say the least.

What came to my mind was a quote from Homer's Iliad, but I choose not to use that one as I would prefer to quote to Cllr Latchford Rudyard Kipling's If.

I'm sure if he read that poem right the way through, he would end up being a man, my son!

Bernard La Roche
Birchington

Protest vote for Iris

It was very kind of Simon Moores to say he had the "greatest respect for me as a hard-working ward councillor".

I think he would agree that some of us would have a lot less hard work to do if we were listened to in the first place.

Since 2003 the Conservative leadership at Thanet council has ignored, and frequently blocked, efforts to assist Labour councillors in helping constituents.

I have emails and letters that confirm this cavalier approach.

As we near the May elections we suddenly see much-requested efforts being made in Margate Central.

The scaffolding on the Dreamland cinema and the Fort Hill Hotel are just two examples of action after years of protests by councillor John Watkins and I.

As for Roger Latchford, yes, the lady doth protest too much. Someone has to!

Cllr Iris Johnston (Labour)
Margate Central ward

This land is our land

According to the Thanet council core planning strategy document, "Broadstairs retains a relatively vibrant commercial centre and visitor economy reflecting its distinctive and charming environment, and does not appear to warrant consideration of any options for significant change or policy intervention".

Then why do they want to change the car park next to Culmers Land where coaches normally park?

Why have they cordoned off the only bit of land with trees on Culmers Land? Are these woods to be torn down without consulting or considering local people?

I walk my dog there every day and am sure many dog-owners do the same. Culmers Land was left to the people of Broadstairs. How can Thanet council justify grabbing it?

People I have spoken to say there is no point in complaining because the council will do as it pleases anyway.

I am sad to see this level of disinterest in our green areas, which are few and far between. Whatever happened to our focus on the environment?

Maybe somebody from Thanet council can tell us what the plans are for that piece of land and whether the plans will be an improvement to what we have.

How does taking land from people who have been left the land improve relations in the area between the people and the council they have elected? Are we looking at yet another land-grab?

Kathy Strong
Broadstairs

More heat than light

I read the Yourthanet story headlined 'Isle MPs see light on changing UK's clocks' and noticed the most important piece of information was missing.

This is that the Daylight Saving Bill, which would, if passed, herald what is normally called Berlin Time, as it would bring us into line with Germany and most other EU countries, has already been tried and proven to be a failure.

Also, the very name of the Bill suggests you can somehow 'save' daylight. All you can do is move it from one end of the day to the other.

I believe this was tried for a four-year period in Portugal.

My understanding is the trial there was a disaster, with more, not fewer accidents, particularly in the dark mornings and with many schoolchildren involved.

In addition, children suffered sleep disruption, being unable to go to sleep in the lighter evenings and having to get up in darkness, with the inevitable effect on school performance.

Where the figures suggesting an increase of 10 per cent in tourism revenue come from is anyone's guess. Maybe from the same eternal optimists who believe Margate will be transformed by the Turner Contemporary?

John Dillon
Kingsgate



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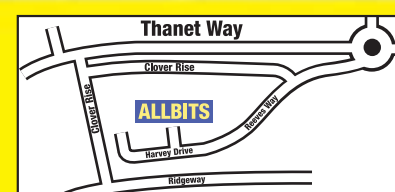
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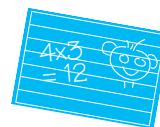


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BREAK TIME

Sarah's key change
in the department

MUSICAL YOUTH: Sarah Rogers with pupils

A NEW head of music is striking a chord at the Charles Dickens School in Broadstairs.

Sarah Rogers joined in September and is busy setting up a rock band, orchestra and samba group, as well as developing the technical side of music production.

She said: "I have a fantastic new music complex, great staff and enthusiastic students. Music is one of the primal forms of communication – something we can all understand and relate to."

Bright sparks show science
know-how at workshops

A TEAM of year nine pupils from Broadstairs triumphed over the competition in a countywide workshop organised by a national power supplier.

The atmosphere was electric at Broadstairs Pavilion as teams of young scientists from schools as far away as Tonbridge battled to prove their engineering know-how in a series of electrical workshops, organised by UK Power Networks.

The team of selected students from the Charles Dickens School scooped first and sec-

■ BY FLORENCE TENNENT

ond places in quizzes that tested the skills they had picked up earlier in the day.

Headteacher Andrew Olsson said: "Science is a very important part of our curriculum and something we are developing all the time."

"The success at the quiz reflects how seriously we take science teaching and learning."

Earlier in the day, students had been challenged with real-life scenarios, in one case playing the role of a fault scheduler during a storm, deciding how best to restore customers' power quickly and prioritising potentially dan-

gerous incidents. The workshop was part of a wider initiative by the company to introduce a thousand teenagers in the South East to the electricity distribution industry.

Students had the opportunity to talk to young professionals who had joined the trade and learn more about how to get involved with engineering.

Vidia Pallaram, education liaison coordinator at UK Power Networks, said: "We are keen to encourage young people to consider a career in the energy industry."

"If students are interested in our industry or any type of engineering, it's important that they start planning now."



PRIZE GUY: Actress Kate Anthony presents award to Connor Holden

Streets ahead of the
competition, Connor

THANET College students celebrated another successful year at their annual prize-giving at the Winter Gardens in Margate.

Guest Kate Anthony, from TV's Coronation Street, spoke about her acting career and complimented the entertainment provided by music and performance arts students.

Margate Mayor Mick Tomlinson presented an award for outstanding contribution to the town to former student Connor Holden, who completed a business diploma at the college.

Connor graduated with exemplary distinction and saw off competition from 254 candidates to win one of four places on an accountancy trainee scheme with KCC.



PUPILS at a Ramsgate school are staying safe and staying seen thanks to a donation of reflective badges.

Newington Primary youngsters were visited by Brian Gray, a road safety officer at Kent Highways, who gave an assembly on road awareness before presenting pupils with bright yellow safety badges for their coats, sponsored by the Co-op.

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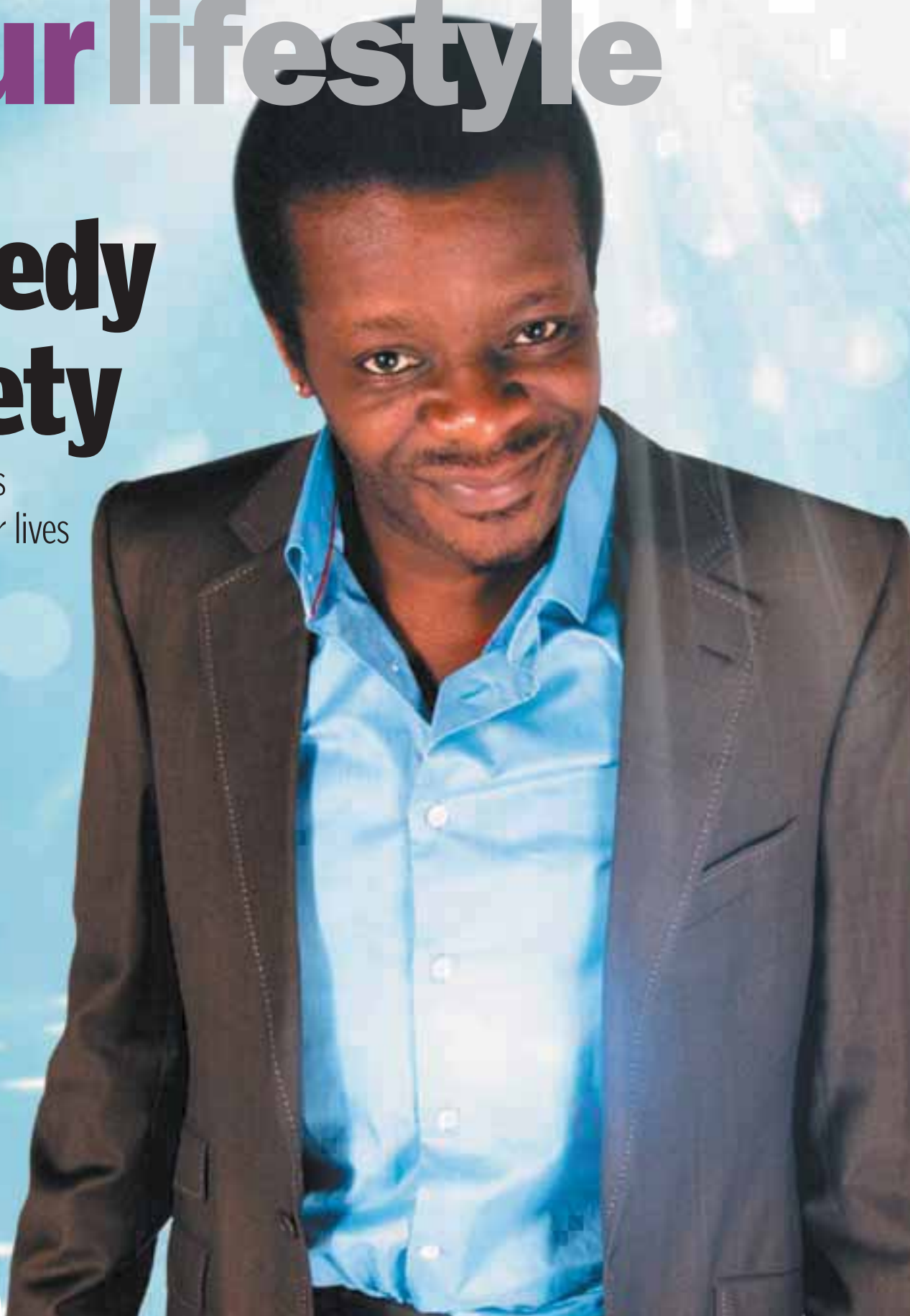
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your lifestyle

Comedy variety

Stephen K Amos
brightens up our lives
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DAY & NIGHT

Beautiful ballet show

CINDERELLA by Ballet Theatre UK is at the Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, on Saturday, January 29, at 7.30pm.

The rags-to-riches story features Prokofiev's uplifting score together with sumptuous costumes. The sets conjure up a magical fantasy world in this enchanting production.

Tickets are £18, concessions £15. To book call 01622 758611 or visit www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk.

The thrill of the circus

FROM January 11 to 15, the big top of Moscow State Circus will arrive at the Churchill Theatre.

Performers are bringing the sensational new show *Legenda* to Bromley for the first time. It is sure to thrill, astound and shock audiences of all ages with its blend of classical and contemporary circus.

Presenting a huge cast of Russia's greatest circus artistes, the Moscow State Circus is bursting with incredible human feats and death-defying acts, with state of the art special effects and performers who push the boundaries of physical ingenuity.

But tickets by calling 08448 717620, or at www.ambassadorstickets.com/bromley.

Laughter with Marlon

STAND-up comedian Marlon Davis will be making audiences laugh at the Hazlitt Theatre in Maidstone on Wednesday, February 2.

The young comedian, improviser, actor and presenter bursts on to the stage like a breath of fresh air, with an impish grin, boyish enthusiasm and an effortlessly open, confident style.

He appeared in *Brown-Eyed Boy* on MTV and won the FHM Search For A Stand-Up Hero competition in 2009.

Tickets are £10. Over 18s only.

See www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk or call 01622 758611 to book.

Tune in to war time

ISLA St Clair comes to the Horsebridge centre in Whitstable on Friday, at 7.30pm.

The Eyes Front show is an exciting combination of live performance and film about the effect of music in wartime with the singer and broadcaster.

Isla St Clair, will present and perform a selection of popular songs and tell the stories behind them.

Visit www.islastclair.com for details.

Tickets are £10 or £9 concessions from the box office on 01227 281174.

Tony shares his politics

VETERAN parliamentarian Tony Benn comes to the Gulbenkian Theatre in Canterbury for one of his popular speaking dates.

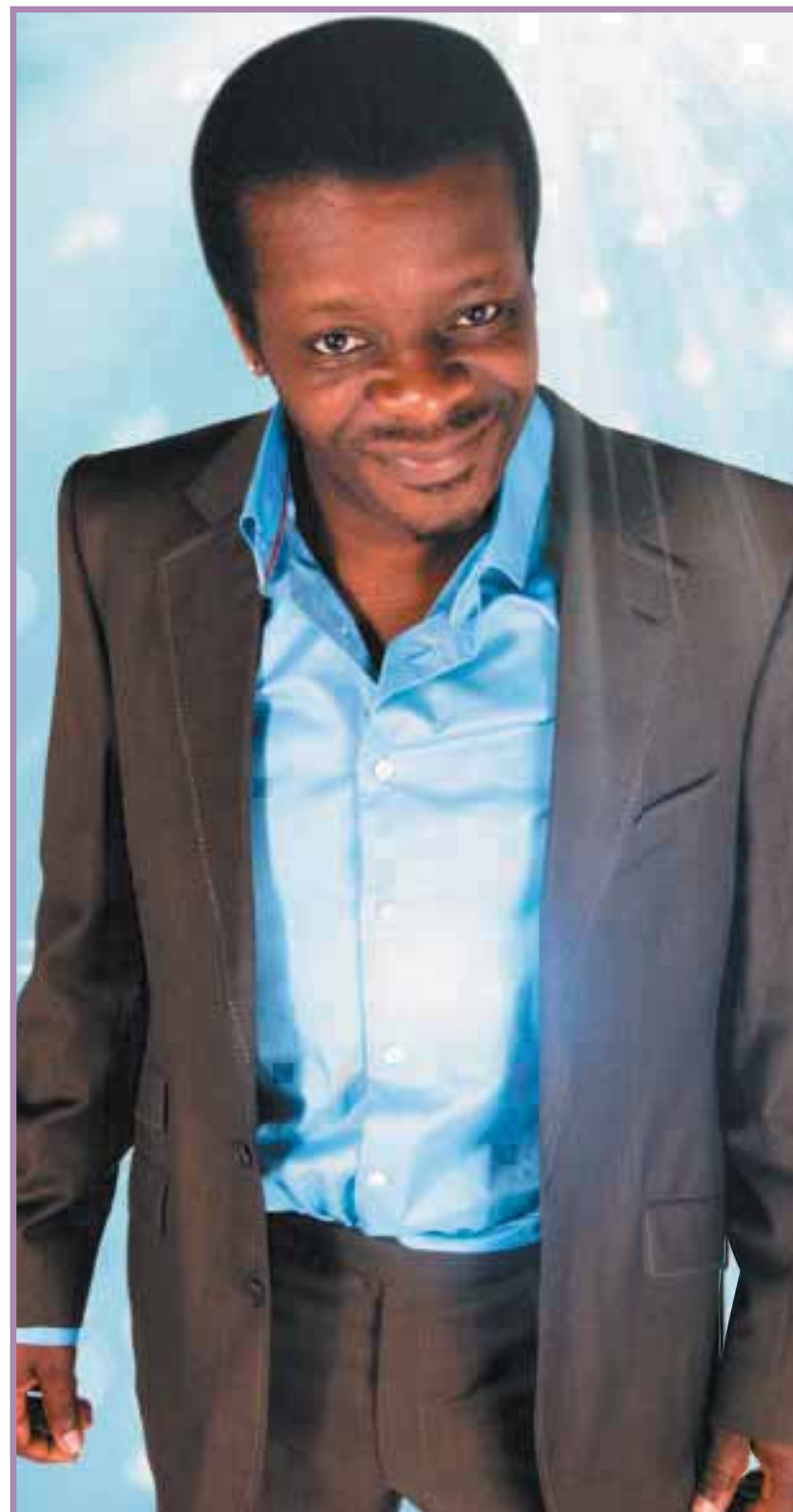
An Evening with Tony Benn, on Friday, January 21, will see the lauded left winger recall many anecdotes from his distinguished career.

He'll talk about his life in politics and what he thinks about the changes in the Labour party.

Expect an evening of frank responses and entertaining political anecdotes in the long awaited sequel to his original legendary theatre tour.

For tickets (£18) call 01227 769075 or visit www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian.

Laughter is the best medicine



STEPHEN K AMOS

Tuesday, January 18
Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury



STEPHEN K Amos is experiencing the biggest boom of his career.

The comedian has recently been starring in his own self-titled TV show on BBC Two and is seen as one of the brightest new stars in the comedy firmament.

And now he's bringing his *The Best Medicine* show to Canterbury.

"I'm feeling good about life right now," he said. "I was really flattered that the BBC saw fit to give me the chance to do my own show, in this day and age if you are a comic on TV you don't always get that platform to show all the different things you can do, so I saw it as a real great opportunity to show a bit more of myself."

The Stephen K Amos show went out on BBC Two on Friday nights at 10pm, but the series ended in the run up to Christmas.

Stephen said of what he wanted to achieve with it: "I kind of hark back to the old style of Dave Allen with the feel of the show. It's quite gentle and I embrace the variety nature of shows like that as I didn't think that kind of thing was happening as much on TV anymore, so to help to try and revive it is something that it's great to be involved with."

"I didn't want to do another bog-standard stand-up show. With that in mind we threw in some sketches, some bits with the audience and then some musical acts that you might not see on things like Michael McIntyre's Comedy Roadshow. I just wanted to throw some more in there to mix it up a bit."

Stephen turned to comedy 15 years ago but never thought he'd make a career out of it.

He said: "I was studying law at the time but decided I'd try my hand at stand-up and simply haven't stopped. It was never part of my plan to live this life. I wanted to be a lawyer and see where that took me."

"I'd never tried stand-up before, or any comedy and never been to a comedy club, so to me it was like a totally new medium."

"I just took the attitude from the start that it was all about having fun on stage and not being too fearful of it."

"That was probably helped initially by the fact that at the early shows a lot of my friends turned up. They found me funny anyway, but they obviously couldn't be there every time I had a show and so they started to stop coming. But the laughs continued and I decided to keep it going."

"People always say to me it must be the most petrifying thing to do, but the worst that can happen is that people don't laugh. It might be uncomfortable for a while but you're not going to die. There's usually a lot of goodwill in audiences too. Most people go to comedy nights to laugh, they want to laugh."

Stephen promises that his touring show is very different to his TV work.

"This is live, unedited and in the moment. I try and keep it as fresh as possible. If something that is new material to me feels right I will do it and try it out. I try not to stick too rigidly to any script."

Stephen begins his tour in mid-January and says that he believes comedy is having a real renaissance at the moment.

"It's absolutely going through a boom time. That's got to be a good thing. I think we've all had enough of celebrity chefs. There was a time when you couldn't turn on the TV without seeing one, but that seems to have died off a little."

"People want to have a laugh when they get home. There are other art forms and stand-up comedy really is one worth putting on TV."

• For tickets (£13 each) to see Stephen in Canterbury, Book at www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian or call 01227 769075.



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THE FUNNY SIDE COMEDY CLUB

Wednesday, January 26, Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury



FUNNY Side Comedy Club nights take place once a month on Wednesdays in the theatre building on the University of Kent campus.

Three top acts, usually Comedy Store regulars, are introduced by our compere in the comfortable surroundings of the Cafe Bar.

This month Kevin Precious introduces vein popping Mark Walker; endearing Diane Morgan; and loveable Eddy Brimson, pictured.

Mark Walker has fronted a rock band and worked as a pebble dasher. He now finds himself living in London and working the comedy circuit.

He is vocally and physically

dynamic with his performance, in which he combines life with surrealism to become a living embodiment of his daydreams.

Diane Morgan, a former actress, is one half of acclaimed comedy sketch duo Two Episodes of Mash and has won numerous awards and praise.

Eddy Brimson is a familiar face on the UK comedy circuit and is a regular at such prestigious venues as Jongleurs, Banana Cabaret, Belfast Empire and London's notorious Up the Creek.

Advance tickets are £8, or you can pay £10 on the door on the night. Encore Gulbenkian members and student advance tickets are £6, or £8 on the door.



PUNT AND DENNIS



Saturday, January 15 and Thursday, January 20, Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury

GOOD friends and important fixtures on the British comedy scene for decades, it's been three years since Punt and Dennis last toured the UK.

There is, therefore, no excuse for not writing a brand-new show and getting out on the road... so they have.

Hugh Dennis has catapulted in popularity following his role in the award-winning Outnumbered, as the obnoxious GP Piers Crispin in My Hero, and with his quick-witted quips as a regular panellist on Mock the Week, and Steve Punt has worked just as hard and often.

They've come a long way since being bit part players on Jasper Carrot's show Canned Carrot.

Both have enjoyed continued success in the award-winning and acclaimed BBC Radio 4 programme The Now Show.

Expect ridiculous mimes, great impressions, political satire and maybe the odd nursery rhyme.

Tickets are £18.50 or £16.50 for members of Encore! Gulbenkian. Over 16s only.

Call 01227 769075 or visit www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian to book tickets or for further information.

ALADDIN

Until January 23, various times,
Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone



IT MAY seem like a little too late to be thinking about going to see a pantomime, but performers in Folkestone are still very much at it.

The annual Leas Cliff Hall panto, Aladddin, features a brand new set, talented cast and plenty of catchy show tunes that you'll be singing until February half term.

Folkestone's favourite panto stars will take to the stage, Paul Ketley and Neil Hunnisett will have you in stitches with their hilarious antics as Widow Twankey and Wishee Washee, while Natalie Hubbard will keep an eye on proceedings as PC Pongo. The evil Abanazar is played by Bob Osborne so get ready to boo and hiss.

Aladdin himself is played by Callum Erskine who has starred in the Youth Community Theatre Project Productions of Wizard of Oz



and Fame. Ellie Fiore, 17, is Princess Jasmine.

Join Aladdin, Princess Jasmine and of course Wishee Washee and Widow Twankey as they take you

on a magic carpet ride for a spectacular pantomime.

Tickets start at £13 plus booking fee, from www.leascliffhall.org.uk or call 0844 847 1776.



JIM MULLEN AND HENRY LOWTHER



Thursday, January 20, Tower Theatre, Folkestone

JAZZ AT the Tower presents one of the great duos of British jazz, for a show not to be missed.

Jim Mullen is deemed to be one of the world's foremost jazz guitarists, he will team up with Henry Lowther to recreate their studio recordings.

Mullen began his musical career playing tea chest bass in a skiffle group and soon progressed to guitar.

He was a member of a group with future Average White Band members Malcom Duncan and Roger Ball for a time and in 1975 hooked up with Dick Morrissey, followed by a host of top American artists.

His playing partner during the 60s, Henry Lowther was one of the first musicians on the British jazz scene to experiment with total free improvisation, notably with Jack Bruce, Lyn Dobson and Jon Hiseman.

He played with the original, seminal Mike Westbrook band and even hit the rock scene in the 60s.

Lowther will play the flugelhorn as well as the trumpet and be backed by Alex Keen on double bass and Rod Brown on drums.

Entrance on the evening is £7, call 01303 277175 to book or for more information.

THANET ON FILM: RAMSGATE SPECIAL



Thursday, January 13, Granville Cinema, Ramsgate

A SPECIAL Ramsgate edition of the phenomenally popular Thanet On Film will get its first screening this week.

The film, which broke box office records when it was screened in Broadstairs last year, is giving Ramsgate the big screen treatment in response to public demand.

Producer Christine Tongue said: "Over the last 12 months, many people from Ramsgate have asked that us to show the film in the town. However, we waited until we had time to put together a special Ramsgate edition.

"The film now includes extra vintage footage from the 1920s, 50s and 70s, as well as more recent times. There are lots of nostalgic shots of the beach, the attractions and the summer crowds. Over all it gives a fascinating impression of how Ramsgate has changed since its holiday heyday."

A special feature of the film is an item on Ramsgate seafront and the old Pleasurama site, which has been derelict for a decade.

Christine said: "The film tells the long saga of big promises and prolonged dereliction which has bedevilled Ramsgate seafront for so many years now."

Booking is advisable on 01843 591750.



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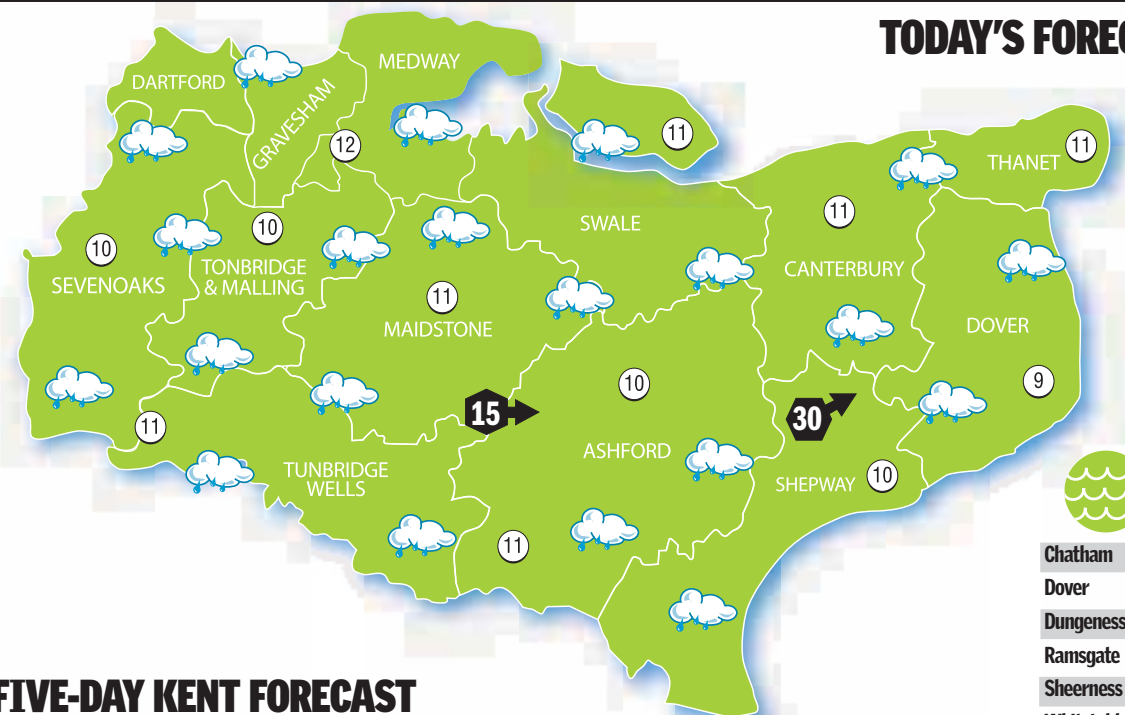
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TODAY'S FORECAST



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

| | | | |
|------------|------|------------|------|
| Amsterdam | 3°C | Madrid | 8°C |
| Athens | 14°C | New York | 1°C |
| Barcelona | 14°C | Paris | 7°C |
| Beijing | -2°C | Rome | 15°C |
| Bombay | 31°C | Sydney | 25°C |
| Cape Town | 23°C | Tenerife | 21°C |
| Cardiff | 8°C | Tokyo | 5°C |
| Gibraltar | 15°C | Vancouver | 4°C |
| Hong Kong | 14°C | Warsaw | 2°C |
| Las Palmas | 21°C | Wellington | 18°C |



KENT'S WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

| | | | | |
|------------|----------|-------------|--------|-------------|
| Chatham | Saturday | 8:03am 4.7m | Sunday | 9:18am 4.8m |
| Dover | Saturday | 6:33am 5.3m | Sunday | 7:45am 5.4m |
| Dungeness | Saturday | 6:47am 6.1m | Sunday | 7:53am 6.2m |
| Ramsgate | Saturday | 7:03am 4.0m | Sunday | 8:15am 4.1m |
| Sheerness | Saturday | 7:51am 4.6m | Sunday | 9:06am 4.7m |
| Whitstable | Saturday | 7:45am 4.4m | Sunday | 9:08am 4.5m |

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

| | Thur | Fri | Sat | Sun | Mon | | | | | | | | | | | Whitstable | | | | | Saturday | | 7:45am 4:4m | | | | Sunday | | 9:08am 4:5m | |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------------|-----|------|------|------|------|-----------|-----|------|------|------------|------|---------------|-----|------|----------|------|-------------|---|----------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|--|
| Ashford | 7°C | 12°C | 11°C | 11°C | 11°C | Dover | 6°C | 10°C | 10°C | 9°C | 9°C | Gravesend | 8°C | 12°C | 13°C | 12°C | 11°C | Sevenoaks | 6°C | 11°C | 10°C | 9°C | 9°C |  | SUNRISE | 758am | SUNSET | 4.10pm | | |
| Canterbury | 7°C | 11°C | 11°C | 10°C | 10°C | Faversham | 8°C | 11°C | 12°C | 11°C | 10°C | Maidstone | 8°C | 12°C | 12°C | 11°C | 11°C | Sittingbourne | 8°C | 11°C | 12°C | 11°C | 10°C | | | | | | | |
| Chatham | 8°C | 11°C | 12°C | 11°C | 10°C | Folkestone | 6°C | 10°C | 10°C | 9°C | 9°C | Ramsgate | 7°C | 11°C | 11°C | 10°C | 10°C | Tonbridge | 7°C | 12°C | 12°C | 11°C | 11°C |  | MOONRISE | 10.34am | MOONSET | 12.20am | | |
| Dartford | 8°C | 12°C | 13°C | 12°C | 11°C | Gillingham | 8°C | 11°C | 12°C | 11°C | 10°C | Rochester | 8°C | 11°C | 12°C | 11°C | 10°C | Tun Wells | 7°C | 12°C | 12°C | 11°C | 11°C | | | | | | | |



SUNRISE 7:58am SUNSET 4:10pm



MOONRISE 10:34am MOONSET 12:20am

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yourmusic

Enjoy live music at the Grey Lady



TALENT: Paul Dunton invites a variety of local musicians to perform on his nights

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

PAUL Dunton is a man who likes to make things happen, and he is proof that a bit of initiative can go a long way.

His efforts have been key in helping to establish a scene for quality music in Tunbridge Wells.

The Grey Lady Music Lounge in the Pantiles has been a venue for music for ten years now, since its reopening.

Paul is one of the artists who has helped it become a runaway success with his candlelit show-cases for those who have something to say with their music.

A musician himself, the story started when Paul found himself a regular on the bill.

He said: "The owner offered me a residency on a weekly basis as an artist, and I was really flattered and accepted. It was quite out of the blue for me and it started out on Wednesday nights, with me playing there once a week and carried on that way for a while.

"But after a while I decided to turn it into something else."

Five years ago the Paul Dunton and Guests nights began in earnest and the interest has grown, becoming a platform for solo artists and acoustic bands to play to appreciative audiences.

He said: "The idea was to invite others to get involved.

"I wasn't sure that me alone playing every week was enough to sustain an interest, and I knew that to keep it fresh it needed others to get involved.

"Pretty soon word really seemed to get around, to the point where it was growing organically. Then after about six months or so, CDs started to arrive in the

post for me to listen to. That's how the roster built up and now we have four acts that play each night and it has become a twice weekly thing."

He continued: "The standard of musicianship and songwriting ability is excellent, of a real high standard, and we offer that for just £5.

"It's worth coming along as I think it's a great night and people are supporting local artists.

"I haven't really encountered a lot of negativity towards the nights as yet, despite them going for five years and it's something I want to continue with for some time as it has had such a good reception. It has become an integral part of the local music scene and it really is packed out twice a week. If the appetite for it is there I see no reason to stop doing it and I hope people will continue to support it."

Before long the 32-year-old found himself at the centre of a small scene that was growing each week as more and more demos turned up for him.

More bands and acts then started to ask for audition sessions to try and get on the bill at the Grey Lady.

"It took me by surprise but it was a welcome surprise. The scene in Tunbridge Wells has a lot to offer, I've really discovered that and believe in what people here are doing."

Paul's own music is what he calls a cross between classical and pop and when he plays he performs with a violinist, cellist and other musicians.

He cites singer/songwriter Damian Rice as one influence and composer Samuel Barber as another and has been playing ten years now.



HIGH SPEED TO THE SLOPES: These days you can take a couple of days off work and be on the piste within hours of arriving at the airport

yourgetaways



It's easy to take a few days off work and hit the slopes

■ BY SARAH O'MEARA

ONCE a luxurious adventure suitable only for James Bond, families with hyphenated surnames and tax dodgers, skiing has now become a great holiday choice for everyone.

But it's only in the last few years that new, innovative holiday companies have started toying with the limitations of the 70s-style week package and giving more choice to those who want to ski frequently, for short periods – and not much money.

You can now nip off for three days skiing, two nights sleep, at a relatively low price, in order to keep those ski legs fresh.

And having headed to the slopes with Skiweekender.com, I can confirm that during the course of one weekend, the turnover of guests at their lodge near the resort of La Clusaz, just an hour from Geneva, is dizzying.

"It is more work," admits Jess Shirley-Smith from the website, over a beer, at the end of a long day working at Les Aravis lodge.

"Our aim is to make sure not a minute of a guest's time is wasted."

Sure enough, we were on the slopes within two hours of arriving at Geneva airport and could immediately see the benefits of this kind of trip. Arriving mid-week for a short stay in March, the airport was quiet, and with our ski passes and



equipment organised in advance, we were propelled effortlessly on to the deserted slopes by the grinning, youthful Skiweekender staff.

Instead of being part of the weekend rush, we had the chance to ski like locals and found fighting the fatigue a little easier than normal with the help of blasting fresh air, exercise and a biere, s'il vous plait.

"Staffing this kind of lodge is expensive," says Jess, hours later, when we're back in the lodge and plonked beside the bar.

"Chalets tend to be run by couples, so it's a different business model, but we work it out so the costs aren't passed on to the customer. French hotels won't do it this way; that's one of the reasons we ended up buying this hotel ourselves."

Skiweekender.com offer a wide range of packages to suit the individual, rather than the needs of a tour operator:

"We make sure everything is on tap as soon as guests get here," says Jess. "The boots, lift passes, rides to the lifts – all those things which usually hold you up. And you also pay for these up front, rather than getting there and suddenly wondering where 300 euros went."

"For us, the internet and Easyjet are key," laughs Jess. "People like the idea they can take a day or two off work and they're down the slopes. We see people coming back again and again. One guy has been three times, and blames his skiing addiction on us. Apparently we make made it too easy."

MOTORS NEWS



Zero per cent on the new C4 from the off

CITROËN'S stylish new C4 went on sale this week, priced from £15,595 and with zero per cent finance deals offered straight away.

Available in five-door format only for now, the new car's compact external dimensions contrast with generous internal volumes and a class-leading 408-litre boot.

The French marque has also gone upmarket with the cabin and there are luxury options such as Denon hi-fi and massaging front seats.

Powertrain options include four low-emission diesel and three petrol engines – the latter developed with BMW.



New junior Audi wins top award for safety

AUDI'S new A1 supermini has earned the ultimate safety accolade – a maximum five-star Euro NCAP rating for frontal, rear or side collision, as well as for child safety and pedestrian protection.

It makes the A1 one of the safest small cars around and delivers further ammunition for its battle with fellow premium contender, the BMW Mini, and Fiat's retro star 500.

The most junior Audi is priced from £13,145 and the engine options are turbocharged 1.2 and 1.4-litre petrol units, plus a 1.6-litre diesel.



Jazzed up Honda deals

HONDA'S British-built Jazz and Civic line-ups have gained from New Year customer savings and offers.

The Jazz (from £9,950) is now available with £1,000 off all models, while the Civic line-up now starts at £12,995 and with savings of up to £2,750.

Other incentives include three years' complimentary servicing on most Civics, tempting new finance deals and the return of Honda's popular 50/50 plan for the Jazz – customers pay half the cost of the car on collection and the balance a year later.



IMPRESSIVE: Peugeot says its RCZ coupé is not aimed at giving the likes of the Audi TT a run for their money, but a stunning drive, comfortable interior and host of extras give it a chance

Peugeot's audacious bid to lionize classy coupé

IF PROOF were needed of Peugeot's new ambition to climb the world's car rankings, look no further than the stunning RCZ coupé.

The Audi TT is the most obvious target for the audacious Peugeot, except that the TT (from £26,475) is more expensive and more minimally equipped than the RCZ (from £20,450).

The upmarket RCZ GT HDi 163 (£25,550) model tested was laden with standard 'extras' such as powered and heated front seats, leather upholstery, parking aids and stunning alloys, and turned heads wherever it was seen.

You even get folding rear seats, allowing the rear of the cabin to be crammed far more than you would expect with that curvaceous roof.

And it steers and handles as crisply as it looks, aided by a tidy six-speed manual change. Sports car purists might moan that it's not rear-wheel drive, but that would have hiked the cost.

And it feels light yet well planted, particularly with the test car's smooth 163bhp 2.0-litre diesel engine.

There is no penalty to pay for the car's ability

ROAD TEST PEUGEOT RCZ

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| Driving appeal | ★★★★★ |
| Image | ★★★★★ |
| Space | ★★★★★ |
| Value | ★★★★★ |
| Running costs | ★★★★★ |
| Reliability | ★★★★★ |
| Green rating | ★★★★★ |

to tame a fast and winding route either; the ride quality is stunning for such a capable sports car and I could imagine driving a huge distance in the RCZ without feeling jaded at the other end.

The cabin is not a bad place to be either. Peugeot has made big strides here lately, opening up a lead over sister brand Citroën and arch-rival Renault.

There is also decent storage space and while the RCZ can never pretend to be more than a 2+2, it's a decent one.

Admittedly, grown-ups will struggle for headroom beneath the distinctive double-bubble rear roof; everyone said this would never be ported over from the original RCZ concept, but it has proved to be a practical way of using air flow to keep the rear screen clear of rain and crud.

The RCZ is also environmentally-friendly for a 'press on' motor; our RCZ diesel pushes out just 139g/km of CO₂ and falls into road tax band-E (£110/year) and should average more than 50mpg – pretty impressive for a fun car.

Will there be a roadster to attack the TT on both fronts? Peugeot has said 'Non!', but the demand is out there.



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| 09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 ZETEC 5DR (2008 -) 15610 MILES | £8799 | £7799 | £1000 |
| 09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 STYLE 5DR (2008 -) 14960 MILES | £7999 | £6999 | £1000 |
| 09 FORD FOCUS HATCHBACK 1.6 ZETEC 5DR (2008 -) 15610 MILES | £8799 | £7799 | £1000 |
| 10 FORD FOCUS DIESEL HATCHBACK 2.0 TDCI ZETEC S 5DR (2008 - 2010) 18440 MILES | £16999 | £15599 | £1400 |
| 57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR (2007 - 2010) 14821 MILES | £7999 | £6499 | £1500 |
| 57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR (2007 - 2010) 14821 MILES | £7999 | £6499 | £1500 |
| 57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR (2007 - 2010) 14476 MILES | £7999 | £6999 | £1000 |
| 07 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR (2007 - 2010) 14821 MILES | £7799 | £6999 | £800 |
| 57 FORD C-MAX ESTATE 1.8 STYLE 5DR (2007 - 2010) 17012 MILES | £7999 | £6999 | £1000 |
| 59 FORD FIESTA PETROL HATCHBACK EDGE (2010.5) 3 DR 1.25 82PS STAGE V (-) 12705 MILES | £8999 | £7499 | £1500 |
| 59 FORD FIESTA PETROL HATCHBACK EDGE (2010.5) 3 DR 1.25 60PS STAGE V (-) 12314 MILES | £8999 | £7499 | £1500 |
| 59 FORD FIESTA PETROL HATCHBACK EDGE (2010.5) 3 DR 1.25 60PS STAGE V (-) 12314 MILES | £8999 | £7499 | £1500 |
| 10 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 5DR | £11999 | £10499 | £1500 |
| 56 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 5DR [CLIMATE] | £5999 | £5499 | £500 |
| 57 FORD FIESTA 1.4 TDCI ZETEC 3DR [CLIMATE] | £5999 | £5499 | £500 |
| 10 FORD FIESTA DIESEL HATCHBACK EDGE (2009) 5 DR 1.4 68PS TDCI (-) 14130 MILES | £11999 | £10499 | £1500 |
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| 57 FORD FIESTA HATCHBACK 1.25 ZETEC 5DR [CLIMATE] (2005 - 2008) 9655 MILES | £6999 | £5999 | £1000 |
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| 08 MINI COOPER 1.6 3DR 0 MILES | £11999 | £9999 | £2000 |
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| 05 PEUGEOT 307 1.6 S 5DR | £5999 | £4999 | £1000 |
| 56 VOLVO V50 2.0 5DR PORT 5DR [EURO 4] | £5999 | £4999 | £1000 |
| 53 VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8i LS 5DR | £5999 | £4999 | £1000 |
| 07 RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 VVT DYNAMIQUE 4DR | £5999 | £4999 | £1000 |
| 56 CITROEN C1 1.0i RHYTHM 3DR | £5999 | £5199 | £800 |
| 06 KIA PICANTO HATCHBACK 1.1 LX 5DR AUTO (2004 - 2006) 6218 MILES | £4499 | £3999 | £500 |
| 57 DAHATSU SIRION 1.0 SE 5DR | £5999 | £4999 | £1000 |
| 10 FORD KUGA DIESEL ESTATE 2.0 TDCI TITANIUM 5DR (2008 - 2010) 21556 MILES | £21999 | £20999 | £1000 |
| 03 MG ZR 1.8 120 + 3DR STEP AUTO | £2999 | £2699 | £300 |
| 57 FORD FUSION PETROL HATCHBACK FUSION + (2007.25) 5-DR 1.6 100PS (-) 12317 MILES | £6999 | £5999 | £1000 |
| 02 FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI ZETEC 5DR [110] [EURO 4] [CLIMATE PACK] | £5999 | £4999 | £1000 |
| 08 MINI COOPER 1.6 3DR | £11999 | £9999 | £2000 |
| 08 CHEVROLET MATIZ HATCHBACK SPECIAL EDITIONS 1.0 FLAIR 5DR (2007 - 2008) | £3999 | £3499 | £500 |

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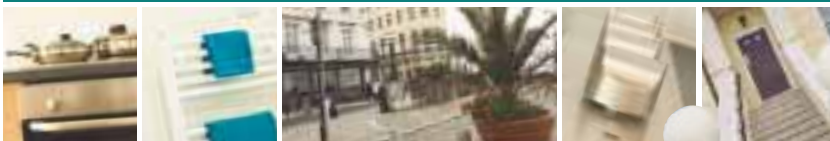
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Ramsgate - £375,000 - £350,000

TMS are delighted to bring to the market this detached bungalow comprising three bedrooms with two reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom and separate w.c. There are gardens to both front and rear and two garages plus a driveway provide off street parking. The property enjoys sea views and is located in a prestigious position on the Eastcliff of Ramsgate close to the Eastern Esplanade cliff top walks and King George VI park. With planning permission approved for the extension of living accommodation viewing is recommended to appreciate the potential of this rarely available property.



Ramsgate - £102,500

First Floor Purpose Built Flat
One Bedroom
Close To Seafront
No Onwards Chain



Margate - £114,995

Purpose Built Two Bedroom Flat
Immaculate Throughout
No Onwards Chain
Off Street Parking



Margate - £124,995

Terraced Two Bedroom House
Kitchen/Dining Room
Approx 40ft Rear Garden



Ramsgate - £139,995

Terraced Three Bedroom House
No Onwards Chain
Close To Seafront
Gardens To Front & Rear



Ramsgate - £140,000

Detached Two Bedroom Bungalow
Gardens To Front & Rear
Off Street Parking
No Onwards Chain



St Peters - £145,000

Semi Detached House
Two/Three Bedrooms
Approx 100ft Garden
Off Street Parking



Ramsgate - £149,995

Semi Detached Three Bedroom House
Newly Fitted Kitchen
Newly Fitted Bathroom
Approx 60ft Garden



Garlinge - £179,995

Semi Detached Three Bedroom House
Character Features
No Onwards Chain
Approx 80ft Garden



Kingsgate - £189,000

Semi Detached Two Bedroom Bungalow
Garage Plus Driveway
Approx 50ft Garden
Walking Distance Of Beach



Birchington - £210,000

Detached Three Bedroom House
NHBC Certificate
Off Street Parking
No Onwards Chain



Birchington - £210,000

Semi Detached Four Bedroom House
Extended Accommodation
Jacuzzi Bathroom
Gardens To Front & Rear



Broadstairs - £215,000

Detached Two Bedroom Bungalow
80ft Rear Garden
No Onwards Chain
Close To Seafront



Broadstairs - £239,995

Detached Two Bedroom Bungalow
Spacious Kitchen
Garage Plus Driveway
Sought After Location



Broadstairs - £240,000

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Three Bedrooms
Character/Period Features
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Cliftonville Office
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Birchington Office
01843 847999



Property of the Week



Broadstairs

- Sought After Location
- Two Bedrooms
- Charm And Character
- Kitchen/Diner
- Gas Central Heating
- Sash Windows
- Communal Grounds
- No Chain!!!

£189,995



Property of the Week



Margate

- Park Views
- Stunning Lanscaped Garden
- No Chain
- Two Bedrooms
- Off Street Parking
- Garage
- Must See
- 1/4 Mile To Town Centre

£210,000



Manston Offers Invited £34,995

- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge With Fireplace
- Master En-Suite
- Gas Central Heating



Margate £84,995

- 500m To Sea
- Communal Parking
- 20ft Lounge / Diner
- Ground Floor



Ramsgate £139,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Gas Central Heating
- Enclosed Rear Garden



Cliftonville £147,500

- Four Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Off Street Parking
- Possible £725-£775 Rental



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Ramsgate £104,995

- Period Cottage
- 29ft Lounge/ Kitchen
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- Gas Central Heating



Ramsgate £114,995

- Two Bedrooms
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- Rear Garden



Ramsgate £149,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Fitted Kitchen/Diner
- Bay Fronted Lounge
- Enclosed Rear Garden



Margate £164,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Kitchen / Diner
- Off Street Parking
- Enclosed Garden



Broadstairs £177,500

- Four Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Gas Central Heating
- Upvc Double Glazing



Ramsgate £179,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing



Ramsgate £249,995

- Three Bedrooms
- Sought After Turning
- Lounge/Diner
- Enclosed Rear Garden



Cliffsend £274,995

- Three Double Bedrooms
- 25' Lounge/Diner
- Balcony With Seaviews
- Osp And Garage



Cliffsend £299,995

- Detached Chalet Bungalow
- 3 Bedrooms & 2 Bathrooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- D/glazing



Broadstairs £375,000

- Four/Five Bedrooms
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PROPERTY OF THE WEEK!! WESTWOOD £675PCM



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Two bedroom Detached bungalow
Garage
Utility room
Garden

MARGATE £550PCM



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Two/Three bedroom house
Large court yard
Modern kitchen
New kitchen

MARGATE £495PCM



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Two bedroom flat
Modern kitchen
New throughout
Modern bathroom

MARGATE £400PCM



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One bedroom flat
Ground floor
Double glazing
Fitted kitchen

WESTBROOK £775PCM



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4 bedroom family home
End of terrace
Drive
Garden
Balcony

CLIFTONVILLE £900PCM



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Four bedroom house
En-suite
Drive
2 Receptions

PALM BAY £725PCM



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Two bedroom House
End of terrace
OSP and Garage
Garden

WESTBROOK £375PCM



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One Bedroom flat
Gas central heating
Double glazing
Modern kitchen

MARGATE £450PCM



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Two bedroom flat
Courtyard garden
Double glazing
Central heating
Own entrance

CLIFTONVILLE £500PCM



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Two bedroom flat
Own entrance
Communal garden
Modern kitchen

MARGATE £425PCM



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One bedroom flat
Set on the third floor
Allocated parking
Balcony

CLIFTONVILLE £425PCM



cliftonville@your-move.co.uk 01843 291777

Two bedroom flat
One double one single
Electric heating
Double glazing
Recently refurbished

CLIFTONVILLE £400PCM



cliftonville@your-move.co.uk 01843 291777

Two bedroom flat
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We are currently looking to recruit a Purchasing and Stock Control Processor here at our busy factory in Ramsgate.

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Starting salary from around £14,000 dependant on experience.

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Closing date for applications is Friday 14 January 2011, no agencies.

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer.



Assistant Manager Required For Residential Care Home in Folkestone

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed person.

Must have minimum NVQ Level 3 qualification, and experience in caring for the elderly is essential.

Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager) on 01303 254019 for further details or email CV to cumbriahouse@ashwoodhealthcare.co.uk
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HOUSEPARENT - CHILDCARE
£19,621 - £23,321 per annum - 41 hours per week.
(Including split shifts and weekends) -
Term time only, plus 2 weeks.*

Working as part of the childcare team, this role involves providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends being a student's Keyworker and some management responsibility.

TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS - CHILDCARE
£4,994 - 15 hours per week (weekends only) -
Term time only, plus 2 weeks.*

Also Fixed-Rate Team Support Worker positions available.

As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to students from Classrooms or Childcare Teams afternoons and evenings during the week and late or early shifts each weekend.

CHILDCARE SUPPORT ASSISTANTS
£10,079 plus 10% per annum -
36.5 hours per week (including weekends) -
Term time only, plus 2 weeks.*

As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends.

*For these roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid.

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, practical, flexible and responsible with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk
Or you may call 01843 838727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine).

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is 12 noon Friday 21st January 2011.

www.bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

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Maurice House, Broadstairs, Kent

We are looking to recruit to a variety of positions in Maurice House, our 47 bedded Residential and Nursing Home, based in Broadstairs, Kent. These are exciting opportunities for you to join one of the Legion's Poppy Homes, forming a major part of our welfare work to provide care for ex-Service people. We are looking to recruit for the following positions on a fixed term basis:

Registered General Nurse (RGN)
10.5 hours per week on a nightly rota basis. Salary: £12.23 per hour
You will be expected to organise and take charge of all aspects of nursing and care services to optimal standards promoting person centred care. Candidates will have RN level 1 plus evidence of updated clinical practice.

Care Assistant Positions
21 and 35 hours per week on a daily rota basis. 20 hours per week on a nightly rota basis
Flexi positions also available. Salary: £6.18 per hour
You will be expected to work as a team member in delivering high quality person centred care to our residents. Candidates will ideally have NVQ2 or willing to work towards the equivalent of this plus commitment to working within a care home environment.

Cook
20 hours per week on a rota basis. Salary: £6.70 per hour
You will be expected to provide service and provision of all meals to residents, take charge of catering services in absence of Head Chef, working with other disciplines within the home. Candidates will have NVQ in Cooking and Basic Food Preparation plus Food Hygiene certificate.

If you would like to apply for this role please visit our website www.britishlegion.org.uk to download an application form to complete and email to mauricehouse@britishlegion.org.uk or collect an application form from Maurice House and post or deliver to Maurice House no later than 30th January 2011.

Please note that CVs are not accepted and we are not seeking the assistance of Recruitment Agencies to help us with this vacancy.

Please note: We comply with current government legislation relating to the Default Retirement age (DRA) of 65 years and all Royal British Legion employees are retired upon reaching their 65th birthday.

Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted within two weeks of the closing date.

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Box Office Supervisor (£17,000 - £18,500)

Theatre Royal Margate is seeking an organised and motivated candidate with excellent sales and database skills and a passion for the arts. You will ensure the efficient running of the Box Office, working with the Theatre Royal Margate team to increase and diversify the footfall into the theatre and its activities. This is a full-time position, for a fixed term of eighteen months, reporting to the General Manager in a small and busy organisation.

For an application pack please call 01843 282956, see our website www.theatreroyalmarginet.co.uk or email: admin@theatreroyalmarginet.co.uk

Deadline for applications – Fri 4th Feb, 12pm

Interviews – w/b 7th Feb 2011

Margate Theatre Royal Trust is a registered charity (279015) and aims to be an equal opportunities employer.

COMMERCIAL MANAGER

An experienced Commercial Manager is required to head up our team of estimators working as a specialist subcontractor in the social housing refurbishment sector.

With contract values up to £6.5 million pa, candidates must be able to demonstrate expertise, flair and innovation in the preparation of Tenders, PQQ's and managing and assisting in Partnering Submissions for RSL's and Local Authorities as well as liaising closely with the commercial sales team and assisting with job cost feedback.

Based at the company's Head Office in Ramsgate, Kent, there will be a requirement for visits to sites and meetings with clients. Offered is a salary appropriate to your experience, together with contributory pension scheme.

Please apply in writing to Mr Ron Twyman
Planning Manager, 140 Newington Road,
Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 6PP or
e-mail ron@piperwindows.co.uk



The Spencer Wing is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEOM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Staff Nurse (Margate)

Full and part-time positions available
Closing date for applications - Monday 17th January 2011

Qualifications
Registered Nurse 1st Level
Evidence of continual professional development
ENB 998 Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent (desirable)
To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact
Liz Justice - 01843 234555 Ext: 62207

For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd, The Spencer Wing
QEOM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556 Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer
These positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

Flexi Day Care Assistants

**Required For Residential Care Home
in Folkestone**

We are looking to recruit staff with relevant experience and a minimum of NVQ level 2. Experience caring for the elderly is essential.

Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager) on 01303 254019 for further details or email CV to cumbriahouse@ashwoodhealthcare.co.uk
Subject to satisfactory CRB Check

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Media Sales Executives Field Based x2

Full Time permanent Medway North Kent
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KOS Media look for highly motivated people to create and sell multi-media solutions in our market leading portfolio including newspapers, magazines and digital sales.

We believe and pride ourselves in good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response.

Looking after and growing an existing customer base along with finding new business will form the basis of the job role. You will need to be a self motivated individual with sales experience, good communicator, tenacious and hard working to succeed in this environment.

Telephone Sales Executives (Maternity Cover)

Fixed term 12 months

If you are highly driven, confident, a self motivated team player with good communication skills, who is able to work under pressure to deadlines and targets, in our fast paced and fun telesales department, then apply.

You will be office based and working with an existing client base of advertisers where customer service is paramount, but you must also be able to search out new business to develop and grow your territory revenues and opportunities.

We believe and pride ourselves in good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response. Media experience is not essential as full training will be given.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:

Ynez Coton, Commercial Director,
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA
Apple Barn, Hythe Rd, Smeeth, Ashford Kent. TN25 6SS
Or email ynyez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk

Media Sales Executives (Business to Business)

We have an opportunity for highly motivated people to create and sell multi-media solutions in our market-leading portfolio of newspapers and magazines.

We're not looking for people to just take orders; we're looking for people who can provide first class solutions for our customers.

We believe good customer service is at the heart of our success and we want to recruit people who can develop excellent business relationships and present effective and innovative ideas that will provide real value and response for our customers.

Telephone Sales Executives x2

You will play the key role in selling advertising across our market leading portfolio of newspapers, websites and mobile products.

Candidates may possess a track record in telephone sales, combining excellent communication skills, tenacity and the ability to build relationships.

Ultimately, we need an articulate and assured sales person with a structured and positive manner.

Your might also be looking to enter media as a career within sale and this would be an excellent starting point.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation.

Please apply with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:

Christine Davidson, Commercial Director
ARCHANT KOS MEDIA,
Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS
Or by email christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk

Johnson's GARDEN BUILDINGS

Sales Assistants and Trainee Sales Assistants

Vacancies in Sevenoaks, Maidstone and Whitstable

Exciting direct sales opportunities with a major retailer of garden buildings in the South-East specialising in log cabins. Why not develop a new career with an expanding company in a growth sector selling this desirable and fashionable product.

All applicants would preferably have English language and basic mathematics equivalent to GCSE grade level C or higher. Candidates will require a basic knowledge of construction techniques applicable in this market sector and have the strong communication skills essential for dealing with the general public. Basic IT and administrative skills beneficial.

Some weekend work required, own transport essential. Full training provided to successful candidates. Between 30-48 hours per week.

Trainee Sales Assistants circa £15,000 per annum, full-time Sales Assistants on target earnings of £25,000 per annum according to level.

Please send CV with self-addressed envelope and detailed information on relevant experience to:

Human Resources, Johnson's Leisure Ltd, Old Thanet Way, Chestfield, Kent CT5 3JD.
Or email sales@needextraspaces.co.uk.

Unfortunately telephone enquiries cannot be processed.

THANET COLLEGE
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SENIOR HR OFFICER

An exciting and challenging new position is available for the post of Senior HR Officer.

This person is required to lead the HR team in developing and delivering a comprehensive, high quality HR service for the college, which employs around 400 staff.

Providing employment advice and guidance you will lead on policies and procedures ensuring that best HR practice is in place.

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Blues boss vows to wield the axe in bid to save job

FOOTBALL

BY STEVE TERTVET

Margate 0

Croydon Athletic 2

Elgar 76, Sawyer 83



UNDER-FIRE Margate manager Iain O'Connell will shake up his squad this week in an attempt to reignite the passion at Hartsdown Park and save his own job.

O'Connell, serving a touchline ban, watched from the sidelines as the Blues crumbled to their most galling defeat of the season, a sorry reverse at home to basement club Croydon Athletic on Saturday.

The Gate had their chances to score before Croydon struck twice in the last 14 minutes and O'Connell could not hide his disgust at the nature of his side's surrender.

"I was pretty shocked at the lack of passion and the supporters were as well," he said. "I've got to make sure the XI out there have got that, otherwise I won't be here very long."

"We just didn't play well, we had six or seven very good chances, but didn't take them and they took theirs. Unfortunately, we've got into a



NO PASSION: Margate's defeat to bottom club Croydon is cause for alarm for both fans and manager Iain O'Connell

rut, and I've got to see whether the players have got the passion to get out of that rut."

Dan Stubbs and Shaun Welford both missed golden opportunities to put the home side ahead before Danny Elgar drove a low shot past Jamie Turner to put Croydon in the front.

O'Connell's miserable afternoon was completed seven minutes from time when Frankie Sawyer saw his shot squirm over the line and the Hartsdown Park crowd of 266 – Margate's

Margate starting XI



Subs used: Grant (Stubbs 74)

lowest of the season – left with little reason for optimism.

The Blues have now taken one point from a possible 12 at home, where they have won only once in seven attempts, and O'Connell has promised to wield the axe in order to spark a recovery.

"I'm going to bring in new players and there will be people going out of the door as well," he said. "One thing I want is 100 per cent from every player and only five or six gave me that on Saturday. I will make changes, I'll work hard this week to bring players in."

The Margate boss did get a reaction 48 hours later as his side bounced back with a vital 1-0 win at Wealdstone on Monday night. A goal just before half-time from midfielder Danny Stubbs won it for the visitors, who included veteran John Keister in their side to help re-ignite the passion that was lacking from the weekend's display.

O'Connell announced himself "proud" of his players' performance and is looking for a similar display at Canvey Island on Saturday.

FOOTBALL



OUT OF ACTION: Tom Tsangarides suffers from asthma

Harker's first strike seals an away draw for battling Rams

Chipstead 1 Ramsgate 1

RAMSGATE had Ryan Harker to thank for salvaging a draw at Chipstead after the defender struck his first goal for the club in spectacular fashion.

Trailing 1-0 to Ronald Green's eighth-minute strike, the Rams came out firing in the second period, but only 14 minutes were left on the clock when Harker cut in from the left and thundered home a powerful effort from 25 yards.

Assistant manager Richard Langley felt a point was the least Ramsgate deserved for their second-half efforts, but having seen Chipstead demolish Sittingbourne 3-0 four days earlier, he declared himself happy with the draw.

"We're very pleased and it should have been three points," he said. "They looked a reasonable side [against Sittingbourne] so we knew we'd have our work cut out. We didn't have the greatest start, we went a goal down quite early, but we pretty much dominated the game after that. The only downfall was that for all our domination, we didn't have many clear-cut chances."

"One really good point was the way we came out for the second-half all guns blazing and could have scored two or three goals. Overall, away from home, playing a club higher in the table, you should be satisfied with a point."

The Rams, who host Walton & Hersham on Saturday, are likely to be without Tom Tsangarides for the immediate future, although Langley was quick to quash rumours that the striker was on his way out of Southwood.

He said: "Tom struggles with asthma, he gets a lot of chest infections and he had a couple over Christmas. He's having a break at the moment to get himself back to full health and he'll play a couple of games with the reserves once these bugs disappear."

For details of Ramsgate's trip to Dulwich Hamlet last night, log on to www.yourthanet.co.uk.

LEAGUE TABLE

(Not including midweek games)

RYMAN PREMIER DIVISION

| | P | W | D | L | Gd | Pt |
|-----------------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|----|
| 1 Sutton United | 21 | 12 | 6 | 3 | +17 | 42 |
| 2 Bury Town | 20 | 11 | 5 | 4 | +9 | 38 |
| 3 Cray Wanderers | 21 | 11 | 4 | 6 | +20 | 37 |
| 4 Kingstonian | 20 | 11 | 3 | 6 | +9 | 36 |
| 5 Lowestoft Town | 17 | 10 | 5 | 2 | +16 | 35 |
| 6 AFC Hornchurch | 20 | 9 | 6 | 5 | +6 | 33 |
| 7 Concord Rangers | 20 | 9 | 5 | 6 | +5 | 32 |
| 8 Tonbridge Angels | 19 | 9 | 4 | 6 | +5 | 31 |
| 9 Carshalton Athletic | 20 | 9 | 3 | 8 | +9 | 30 |
| 10 Harrow Borough | 19 | 9 | 3 | 7 | +8 | 30 |
| 11 Billericay Town | 20 | 8 | 5 | 7 | -1 | 29 |
| 12 Canvey Island | 20 | 7 | 7 | 6 | +1 | 28 |
| 13 Hendon | 16 | 7 | 5 | 4 | +8 | 26 |
| 14 Horsham | 21 | 7 | 5 | 9 | -11 | 26 |
| 15 Tooting & Mitcham United | 23 | 6 | 8 | 9 | -13 | 26 |
| 16 Margate | 21 | 6 | 6 | 9 | -1 | 24 |
| 17 Wealdstone | 21 | 6 | 5 | 10 | -5 | 23 |
| 18 Hastings United | 21 | 4 | 6 | 11 | -8 | 18 |
| 19 Maidstone United | 21 | 3 | 8 | 10 | -14 | 17 |
| 20 Aveley | 20 | 4 | 4 | 12 | -17 | 16 |
| 21 Folkestone Invicta | 20 | 3 | 6 | 11 | -14 | 15 |
| 22 Croydon Athletic | 21 | 4 | 3 | 14 | -29 | 15 |

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|----|
| 1 Metropolitan Police | 19 | 15 | 3 | 1 | +38 | 48 |
| 2 Whitehawk | 23 | 13 | 6 | 4 | +31 | 45 |
| 3 Leatherhead | 21 | 13 | 4 | 4 | +33 | 43 |
| 4 Bognor Regis Town | 19 | 13 | 4 | 2 | +25 | 43 |
| 5 Burgess Hill Town | 21 | 10 | 5 | 6 | +7 | 35 |
| 6 Walton Casuals | 22 | 10 | 5 | 7 | +4 | 35 |
| 7 Sittingbourne | 22 | 9 | 5 | 8 | +6 | 32 |
| 8 Walton & Hersham | 21 | 9 | 3 | 9 | +2 | 30 |
| 9 Merstham | 21 | 7 | 9 | 5 | 0 | 30 |
| 10 Chipstead | 21 | 8 | 6 | 7 | -1 | 30 |
| 11 Worthing | 20 | 7 | 7 | 6 | +12 | 28 |
| 12 Faversham Town | 21 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 28 |
| 13 Ramsgate | 24 | 7 | 6 | 11 | -5 | 27 |
| 14 Godalming Town | 19 | 8 | 2 | 9 | -17 | 26 |
| 15 Eastbourne Town | 22 | 6 | 7 | 9 | -9 | 25 |
| 16 Dulwich Hamlet | 19 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 24 |
| 17 Fleet Town | 18 | 7 | 3 | 8 | -7 | 24 |
| 18 Chatham Town | 21 | 6 | 4 | 11 | -13 | 22 |
| 19 Whyteleafe | 20 | 5 | 3 | 12 | -16 | 18 |
| 20 Corinthian-Casuals | 22 | 5 | 3 | 14 | -19 | 18 |
| 21 Whitstable Town | 22 | 3 | 7 | 12 | -16 | 16 |
| 22 Horsham YMCA | 22 | 3 | 2 | 17 | -55 | 11 |

FIXTURES (Saturday):

RYMAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION: Canvey Island v Margate
RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH: Ramsgate v Walton & Hersham

Penalties dash Wanderers' hopes of win on the road

RUGBY

Beckenham 20 Thanet Wanderers 20

A SERIES of bizarre refereeing decisions cost Thanet Wanderers their first away win of the season as a late Tom Ash try salvaged a draw at high-flying Beckenham.

The visitors, starting the year with a dreadful record on the road, flew out of the traps and had the game in their grip at the halfway stage, but the hosts' penalty count rocketed after the break and they led 20-13 with ten minutes to play.

However, Ash's late interception try ensured the spoils would be shared and Thanet head coach Tom Carlier was left to reflect on the clash with mixed feelings.

He said: "The way Beckenham are going, we expected a difficult game and a draw away from home would have been acceptable, but we did more than enough to win it."

"There were some interesting refereeing decisions to the point where it became frustrating for both coaches."

"If we could have maintained possession and got it through three or four phases, they would have been dead in the water, but the referee didn't let it go for more than two phases before he blew up."

Early Thanet pressure pinned Beckenham back in their own half for the opening 40 minutes, but the visitors allowed their 13-0 lead to slip away after the interval.

Despite letting slip a winning position, however, Carlier praised his side's performance and flagged up the fine work done by



Picture: NICK DUNCAN

SO NEAR, SO FAR: Thanet Wanderers came close to recording their first away win at Beckenham

20-year-old Jonathan Walker-Smith, who produced a superb display at tight-head prop.

Wanderers, who remain third-bottom in London 1 South, return to action on Saturday with a home game against Sutton & Epsom.

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Gills boss Andy Hessenthaler reveals the latest team news from Priestfield



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